

Existing law established and continued the Oyster Task Force by concurrent resolution. New law establishes the Oyster Task Force as an independent statutory entity under the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWF). Provides that the task force retains its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as provided by law.

New law provides membership as follows:

- (1) One member appointed by the governor from the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities.
- (2) Two members appointed by the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- (3) One member appointed by the secretary of the Dept. of Natural Resources.
- (4) One member appointed by the secretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals.
- (5) Four members appointed by the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association. Of these appointments, one shall be from Lafourche Parish and one shall be from Jefferson Parish.
- (6) Two members appointed by the Plaquemines Oyster Association.
- (7) One member appointed by the Terrebonne Oyster Association.
- (8) One member appointed by the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Task Force.
- (9) One member appointed by the Southwest Pass Oyster Leaseholder Association.
- (10) Two members appointed by the United Commercial Fisherman's Association.
- (11) One member appointed by the Delta Commercial Fisherman's organization.

New law provides that the members appointed by the state agencies shall be nonvoting members but shall be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum.

New law continues the requirement that the task force adopt bylaws, elect a chairman, and authorizes the seeking and receipt of assistance from state universities.

New law continues the following powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities:

- (1) Monitor the water quality and managements requirements of the state's molluscan shellfish propagating areas.
- (2) Coordinate efforts to increase oyster production and salability.
- (3) Study the decline in molluscan shellfish salability, the degradation of water quality which could adversely affect consumer health, and the reasons for such declines and degradations, and make recommendations

to resolve such problems.

- (4) Make recommendations with respect to issues pertaining to the oyster industry and oyster production to various state agencies.

New law continues funding from the Oyster Development Account of the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Fund.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Adds R.S. 36:610(B)(7) and R.S. 56:421)